

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AID-05 IGA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DPW-01

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R 210934Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3004

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, US, LA

SUBJECT: ICC FINANCES

REF: VIENTIANE 6707, AUGUST 29, 1974

BEGIN SUMMARY: ICC LAOS HAS AGAIN ASKED FOR U.S. CONTRIBUTION ON URGENT BASIS. ALTHOUGH THE ORGANIZATION IS CURRENTLY INACTIVE, THE 1973 VIENTIANE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL ASSIGN IT A ROLE AND TERMINATION OF U.S. FINANCIAL SUPPORT AT THIS TIME MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS THE BEGINNING WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE SETTLEMENT IN LAOS. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT PROMPTLY AUTHORIZE PARTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF USG'S SHARE FOR CY 1975. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED CUSTOMARY (SEMI-ANNUAL) "URGENT" APPEAL FROM ICC/LAOS FOR PAYMENT OF AT LEAST A PORTION OF ANNUAL USG
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CONTRIBUTION. COMPTROLLER R. P. KAKKAR SAYS ICC IS IN

PARTICULARLY SERIOUS FINANCIAL CONDITION AT THE MOMENT BECAUSE UK AND USSR, WHICH NORMALLY PAY ON QUARTERLY BASIS, HAVE YET TO MAKE FIRST-QUARTER PAYMENTS FOR CY 1975 THAT WERE EXPECTED IN EARLY JANUARY. HE ADDS THAT ICC APPROACHED EMBASSIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES IN FEBRUARY AND HAS SUBSEQUENTLY FURNISHED FINANCIAL DATA REQUESTED BY BOTH FOREIGN OFFICES.

2. ACCORDING TO KAKKAR'S FIGURES, CY 1975 BUDGET IS 269,300 POUNDS STERLING AND U.S. SHARE (17.60 PERCENT) IS 46,396 POUNDS. FINAL EXPENDITURE FIGURE FOR CY 1974 WAS 273,572 POUNDS; SLIGHT SAVINGS RESULTED FROM JUNE 1974 WITHDRAWAL OF SMALL REMAINING CANADIAN DELEGATION BUT HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY OFFSET BY INFLATION.

3. ICC IS NOT APPROACHING FRANCE AT THIS TIME BECAUSE FRANCE WAS IN CREDIT WITH COMMISSION TO EXTENT OF 76,890 POUNDS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1974. KAKKAR ADDS THAT CHINESE HAVE SAID THEY WOULD CONTRIBUTE ONLY IN EVENT ICC WERE "REACTIVATED".

4. THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT KAKKAR GAVE US IS BEING TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY AIRGRAM.

5. COMMENT: ICC/LAOS HAS DONE NOTHING SINCE IT WITNESSED PRISONER EXCHANGE CEREMONIES LAST FALL, AND OFFICERS OF INDIAN DELEGATION BELIEVE THEY CAN UNDERTAKE NOTHING EXCEPT AT INVITATION OF PGNU. LATTER IN ITS TURN SEEMS TO HAVE NOTHING IN MIND FOR ICC; PROVISIONS FOR INTERZONAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT WORKED OUT BY JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT IN DECEMBER 1974 (TOAID A-16, NOTAL) OMIT ANY MENTION OF AN ICC ROLE.

6. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO PULL THE PLUG ON ICC/LAOS. PGNU HAS NOT ASKED FOR DISSOLUTION OF ICC, AND INDEED A CONTINUING ICC ROLE IS FORESEEN IN 1973 VIENTIANE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL. U.S. REFUSAL TO CONTINUE FINANCIAL SUPPORT MIGHT WELL BE INTERPRETED AS BEGINNING OF WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE SETTLEMENT IN LAOS. IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO GROWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELIEF THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA OF TOTAL U.S. DISENGAGEMENT FROM AREA, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME WHEN THE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE OVER CONTINUING AID TO CAMBODIA AND VIET-NAM HAS RAISED NEW DOUBTS REGARDING THE DIRECTION OF U.S. POLICY.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT MAKE PARTIAL PAYMENT OF USG'S CY 1975 CONTRIBUTION AT THIS

TIME (E.G. \$50,000, OR SLIGHTLY LESS THAN HALF OUR SHARE,
AS WAS DONE IN APRIL 1974).
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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